



Date

Dear Permit Holder:

Recent concerns about diseases of fish, the latest of which is viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), have prompted cross-agency discussions for an action plan to preserve the health of the Hoosier fish population. While the focus on aquaculture is new, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) has collaborated with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for many years on a broad range of animal health issues for many species, including rabies, chronic wasting disease and avian influenza.

Beginning in 2007, DNR permits, Fish Health Inspection Reports, and VHS testing certification statements will be required to accompany imports of many species of fish into Indiana from the other seven Great Lakes states of Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania. This documentation will be reviewed jointly by DNR and BOAH to ensure the highest health standards are maintained for farmed and wild fish populations. The review will determine if the movement is in compliance with federal regulations, and the applicant will be contacted by BOAH with an approval or denial of the documentation prior to movement.

In accordance with state law, BOAH maintains a list of animal diseases that must be reported to the agency, including five that infect fish. Review of permits and Certificates of Veterinary Inspection is common practice in most livestock/animal industries. In some cases, when state or federal disease control programs apply, specific testing requirements may need to be met to ensure a shipment of animals is disease-free.

If you have questions about the new policy, please contact Randy Lang, Fisheries Staff Specialist for DNR, at 317/232-4094, rlang@dnr.in.gov.

For more information about reportable diseases in Indiana, visit the BOAH website www.boah.in.gov.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM
Indiana State Veterinarian

Randy Lang
Fisheries Staff Specialist